

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A subscriber unit ~~for use in a distributed voice recognition system,~~ comprising:
 - ~~a microphone for receiving a speech signal from a user;~~
 - a feature extraction module configured to extract a plurality of features of ~~the~~ a speech signal, the plurality of features being used for voice recognition;
 - a voice activity detection module configured to detect voice activity within the speech signal and to ~~provides~~ an indication of ~~the~~ detected voice activity; and
 - a wireless transmitter coupled to the feature extraction module and the voice activity detection module and configured to transmit ~~to a speech recognition device over a wireless network~~ the indication of detected voice activity ahead of and the plurality of features over a wireless network to a voice recognition device in a distributed voice recognition system.
2. (Currently amended) A subscriber unit ~~for use in a distributed voice recognition system,~~ comprising:
 - ~~means for receiving a speech signal from a user;~~
 - means for extracting a plurality of features of ~~the~~ a speech signal, the plurality of features being used for voice recognition;
 - means for detecting voice activity within the speech signal and providing an indication of ~~the~~ detected voice activity; and
 - ~~a wireless transmitter coupled to the feature extraction means and the voice activity detection means and configured to transmit to a speech recognition device over a wireless network~~ means for transmitting the indication of detected voice activity ahead of and the plurality of features over a wireless network to a voice recognition device in a distributed voice recognition system.

3. (Currently amended) The subscriber unit of claim 1, further comprising: a means for combining the plurality of features with the indication of detected voice activity, wherein the indication of detected voice activity is ahead of the plurality of features.

4. (Currently amended) The subscriber unit of claim 2, further comprising: a means for combining the plurality of features with the indication of detected voice activity, wherein the indication of detected voice activity is ahead of the plurality of features.

5. (Currently amended) A method ~~of transmitting speech activity in a distributed voice recognition system~~, comprising:

receiving a speech signal from a user at a subscriber unit;
extracting a plurality of features of ~~the~~ a speech signal, the plurality of features being used for voice recognition;
detecting voice activity within the speech signal and providing an indication of ~~the~~ detected voice activity; and
transmitting ~~to a speech recognition device over a wireless network~~ the indication of detected voice activity ~~ahead of and~~ the plurality of features over a wireless network to a voice recognition device in a distributed voice recognition system.

6. (Currently amended) A method ~~of transmitting speech activity in a distributed speech recognition system~~, comprising:

receiving a speech signal from a user at a subscriber unit;
extracting a plurality of features of ~~the~~ a speech signal, the plurality of features being used for voice recognition;
detecting voice activity within the speech signal and providing an indication of ~~the~~ detected voice activity; and
combining the plurality of features with ~~an~~ the indication of ~~the~~ detected voice activity, thereby creating a combined indication of detected voice activity and features, wherein the indication of detected voice activity is transmitted ~~to a speech recognition device over a wireless~~

network ahead of the plurality of features to a voice recognition device in a distributed voice recognition system.

7. Canceled

8. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 1, further comprising:
a control module configured to receive from the voice recognition device in the distributed voice recognition system at least one word or command estimated based on the indication of detected voice activity and the plurality of features.

9. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 8, wherein the control module is further configured to initiate an action at the subscriber unit based on the at least one word or command.

10. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 8, wherein the control module is further configured to initiate dialing of a phone number or displaying of information on a screen in response to the at least one word or command.

11. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 1, wherein the voice activity detection module is configured to declare an end of the detected voice activity when a silence duration exceeds a predetermined period of time.

12. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of features are based on frequency characteristics of the speech signal.

13. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of features are sent with a lower bit rate during silence periods.

14. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 2, further comprising:
means for receiving from the voice recognition device in the distributed voice recognition
system at least one word or command estimated based on the indication of detected voice
activity and the plurality of features.

15. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 14, further comprising:
means for initiating an action at the subscriber unit based on the at least one word or
command.

16. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 14, further comprising:
means for initiating dialing of a phone number or displaying of information on a screen in
response to the at least one word or command.

17. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 2, further comprising:
means for declaring an end of the detected voice activity when a silence duration exceeds
a predetermined period of time.

18. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 2, further comprising:
means for determining the plurality of features based on frequency characteristics of the
speech signal.

19. (New) The subscriber unit of claim 2, further comprising:
means for sending the plurality of features with a lower bit rate during silence periods.

20. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
receiving from the voice recognition device in the distributed voice recognition system at
least one word or command estimated based on the indication of detected voice activity and the
plurality of features.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
initiating an action at a subscriber unit based on the at least one word or command.
22. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
initiating dialing of a phone number or displaying of information on a screen in response
to the at least one word or command.
23. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
declaring an end of the detected voice activity when a silence duration exceeds a
predetermined period of time.
24. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
determining the plurality of features based on frequency characteristics of the speech
signal.
25. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
sending the plurality of features with a lower bit rate during silence periods.